EXTRACTS

FROM

THE MINUTES

OF THE

EARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS

HELD IN

PHILADELPHIA,

BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE FIFTH MONTH TO THE SIXTEENTH OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE.

1874.

UBLISHED FOR THE YEARLY MEETING.

PHILADELPHIA:
CHARLES A. DIXON & CO.
Stationers and Steam Power Printers, No. 911 Arch Street.
1874.

9C

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

https://archive.org/details/extractsfromminu00year_3

EXTRACTS.

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held in Philadelphia, by adjournments from the 11th of Fifth Month to the 16th of the same, inclusive, 1874.

Reports were received from all our constituent Quarterly Meetings, also from the Half-Year's Meeting of Fishing Creek, and the Friends appointed to attend this meeting as Representatives were present except eight, for the absence of two of these personal indisposition was assigned.

Minutes for Friends in attendance from other Yearly Meetings were presented and read as follows:

For Mary B. Needles, a minister from Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Md.

Esther Haviland, a minister from Chappaqua Monthly Meeting, N. Y.

Catharine S. Vail, an elder and companion for Esther Haviland, from Rahway and Plainfield Monthly Meeting, held at Plainfield, N. J.

The following were subsequently received fr Men's Meeting:

For John Needles, a minister, and companion t his wife, Mary B. Needles, from Baltimore Month Meeting, Md.

Epistles from our Sisters of New York, Baltimor and Indiana were read, and the subjects of intempe ance, of temperance, and of women's influence touch upon in them, called forth the desire, that we may n only hear and commend these essays, but that b living near to the principle of Divine Life within eac of us, our influence may ever be for good.

The representatives were requested to conf together at the close of this session, and bring to ou Afternoon Meeting the names of persons qualified t serve this Meeting as Clerk and Assistant Clerk th present year.

Second day—Afternoon.

Sarah T. Betts, on behalf of the representatives reported that they gave attention to the subjec entrusted to them, and were united in proposing fo the consideration of the meeting, the name of Pheb W. Foulke, for Clerk, and Edith W. Atlee, fo Assistant Clerk. The meeting united with the report and they were appointed to those services the presen year.

The remaining epistles, those from Ohio and enessee, were read, and to respond to them and to ose read in the Morning Meeting, also to address r friends in isolated situations should way open, Committee was appointed.

To examine and settle the accounts of the Treas-er of this Meeting, and report to a future session, Committee was appointed.

To assist the Clerks in collecting the exercises of is Meeting to be embodied with the minutes for pub-ation, a Committee was appointed.

Third day—Morning—12th inst.

The consideration of the state of our Society was troduced by the reading and answering of the 1st, d, and 3rd queries.

Much impressive counsel was offered in regard to e important obligations resting upon us individually, r the support of the various testimonies comprised them.

Afternoon.

The Meeting was occupied with the reading of the h, 5th, and 6th queries, and their answers, and the nsideration of the important practical subjects con-ined in them.

Fourth day—Morning—13th inst.

The 7th and 8th, and the 1st and 2nd annual queries ere read and considered. The exhibit, shown by the

reports, of schools of the kind queried after, was gra fying, but fuller statements, it was thought, would l one of the means towards the end desired—that having our children educated under our care.

It is therefore recommended that in future tl Quarterly Meetings be careful to send accurate repor of schools within their limits, the number of childre in attendance who are members, those who are nc and any other valuable information in connection wi them.

Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to examine the accoun of the Treasurer of this Meeting, report them corre showing a balance due the Meeting of $421.60.

We have had an acceptable visit from our frier William Way, accompanied by Samuel J. Levic Thomas Hoopes and George Thompson.

An interesting report from the joint Committe on Education and Schools was read and united wit and the Committee continued another year.

(This Report will be found in Men's Extract page 24.)

Fifth day—Afternoon—14th inst.

We had an acceptable visit from our friend Georg Truman.

Essays of Epistles addressed to our sisters Indiana, Genessee and Ohio Yearly Meetings we read and united with.

Sixth day—Morning—15th inst.

The minutes of the Representative Committee were rwarded from Men's Meeting, and the reading of me extracts from them brought before us the question f the propriety of Women Friends constituting part f that body, and the meeting united in presenting e subjoined minutes to Men's Meeting.

MINUTE.)

As we acknowledge "That male and female are ne in Christ," and the great work of maintaining he Christian testimonies held by our Society being onsidered as equally binding on men and women, here is a propriety in co-operation not only in our Yearly Meeting, but also in the Committee which represents it, during its recess. A general feeling of nity prevails in this Meeting, with the view, that the ime has fully come when such representation would ave a beneficial effect upon our Society. General unity was expressed with the idea that a change of discipline is not needed to secure this, as by reference to the language of our discipline it is found to read "four suitable friends from each Quarterly Meeting," are to constitute said Committee without mentioning either sex. A Nominating Committee was appointed to bring forward the names of suitable Friends to serve upon the Indian Committee the ensuing year.

Afternoon.

Essays of Epistles to our Sisters of New Yo and Baltimore Yearly Meetings were read and unite with. The Clerk was directed to sign them on beha of the meeting with those read at a previous sessio and to forward to those to whom they were addresse

The Committee also presented an Essay of a Epistle, addressed "to our isolated members and t Friends wherever situated," which was read and unite with, and the Clerk directed to sign it on behalf c the meeting. A Committee was appointed to atten to the printing and circulation of this Epistle.

The Joint Committee, appointed to nominat Friends on the Indian Committee, reported Wm Dorsey and others, who were united with.

The report from the Committee on Indian Affair was read, and their labors during the past year have been satisfactory. We would encourage the Committee to whom we now entrust this charge to do all in their power to aid those of our friends, who are more immediately engaged in the work of Indian civilization. Many of these have left comfortable homes in the east, and daily suffer privations, which all we can do cannot compensate for, and while we encourage them to look to Him who ever rewards the faithful laborer, let us not withhold such material comfort as may be in our power to bestow in addition to that true sympathy, which will serve to lighten their labors.

The following was received from Men's Meeting response to the minute forwarded at a previous ses-n, relative to Women Friends constituting a part of e Representative Committee.

INUTE.)

"It was the conclusion of Men's Meeting, that ere is no provision of the discipline to prevent the spective Quarterly Meetings from forwarding to the early Meeting the names of Women Friends, as way ay open therefor."

In again assembling to review our condition during e past year, we humbly acknowledge that this privi-ge is by permission of our Heavenly Father, and we ve been renewedly impressed with the consciousness our dependence upon Him for all that we possess.

The state of our constituent meetings as repre-ited by the answers to the queries, occasioned much pression of concern for the faithful maintenance of the testimonies which they comprise, and which e of vital importance in the growth and establish-ent of true Christianity.

The continued delinquency of some of our mem-rs in attending their religious meetings, has drawn th much earnest exhortation to endeavor so fully to en the heart for the reception of Divine Love, that will rejoice in the opportunity publicly to testify r gratitude to God for His mercies, by gathering at pointed seasons, to partake together of spiritual

bread either silently or vocally presented. Swee comforting will be the remembrance of such occasio to those who have accompanied their mothers, wh they shall have passed from earth.

Being reminded that by our present disciplir regarding marriage, we have a class among us w frequently attend our religious meetings, Friends we solicited to look after these in their respective neig borhoods in sympathy and love, and should th evince a desire to be present in our disciplina meetings that they be advised to wait for this privile until they may feel free to make application f membership.

Earnest have been the appeals that we rememb the continued obligation to uphold our testimony r garding a free gospel ministry, and rather than se for food for the spiritual needs through outward mi istrations and forms of worship, that we come to t well of Divine Life in our souls, where we shall me with that Power which will speak unto us as never m spake, and lead us in the way of salvation.

In view of the pernicious and desolating effects pride, extravagance and intemperance, we have be exhorted to test the condition of our hearts by t plain and simple commandments of Jesus to those w desire to labor for him, and be accepted of him, a see whether the influence of our daily life is in t direction to nourish the good seed in the heart.

There is need of vigilant watchfulness to guard ainst the evil effects of many customs and fashions the present time. Prominent amongst them, the rious forms of temptation leading to intemperance, ere presented to view; and we were reminded that hough we may not be actual venders or manufacrers of intoxicating liquors, yet as each woman is reonsible to God for the influence she possesses over r father, brother, or husband, He will not hold her iltless unless firmly discountenancing both by word d act the unnecessary use thereof.

Earnest desires have been expressed that those who e awakened to the terrible effects of intemperance our country, and who are now zealously engaged in forts for the removal of the cause, may keep near the ntain of Divine Love, and calmly, and patiently, se their influence through the leadings of the Master, aid an enslaved brother in endeavoring to cast off e heavy burdens from his soul.

We have been affectionately solicited, seriously to eflect upon the present extravagance and superfluity f female apparel, and individually endeavor to produce reform. It is noticeable that with the increased facilies for saving labor in sewing, additional time is conmed in making elaborate trimmings and altering lothing to suit the ever changing fashions of the time.

This with the costly material used requiring a reater expenditure of money than can ofttimes be

spared, is the occasion of valuable strength and tin being appropriated in this manner, which should employed in seeking and relieving the sick and need

In earnest loving appeals we have been cautione to guard against the ostentatious display of flowe and extravagance in any form in preparing our de ones for burial.

While we have been cheered and refreshed by th stream of Gospel Love from those who have lon stood as Mothers in the Church, the encouragin assurance has also been given from the youthful portio of the Assembly, that the daughters are entering th narrow path which leads to peace, and are submittin their hearts to the purifying Power, for the service c the Master.

From these also, earnest appeals were offered t those farther advanced in religious experience tha through neither words nor actions they give cause o stumbling to such as are looking to them for fosterin care and counsel.

In humility we acknowledge that the spirit o true harmony and sisterly condescension has charac terized our sessions. Grateful for this and for all favors, we conclude to meet at the usual time next year, i permitted.

Extracted from the minutes.

PHEBE W. FOULKE,

Clerk.

From the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, ld in New York, by adjournments from the 26th of fth Month to the 29th of the same, inclusive.

To the Yearly Meetings of the Women Friends, to be held in Philadelphia.

EAR SISTERS:—

We have no new thing to write unto you—save at which is "the same yesterday, to-day, and for-er," yet which can never wax old, nor lose its fresh-ss and its power, to those who receive it with glad-ss, and willingness of heart.—In the various trials d besetments which attend our heavenward journey, is good to compare our own experience with that of hers who have trodden the path before, and who are le to extend a helping hand to save us from the snares d pit-falls, that are set at every step to entrap the un-ary.—We have therefore hailed with joy the presence many true Mothers in Israel, whom the Lord of the arvest has sent into our vineyard, and trust, that they ay be permitted to return from their labors in peace, bearing their sheaves with them." Surely we shall without excuse, if the stubborn soil of our hearts sists the softening influences of that Gospel, which s been poured forth among us, in such abundant reams, and which has been addressed to every age, ate, and condition.

We have been cited to remember, and warned to prize lightly, the privilege we enjoy, as member this religious body, over the women of other deno nations.

We have been entreated not to trifle with our bi right, but to use, "as not abusing," our rare opp tunities for usefulness.

It is ours, not only to "warn and comfort" brethern, but to be true helpers—to go hand in h with them in every work which tends to elevate race, and redeem it from the thraldom of error unbelief.—Did we rightly weigh the extent of our fluence, we should never use it, but to bless, and noble.—Each one of us, no matter how circumscri her sphere, has the power to regulate her own life the law of love—to brighten some home—to awal or strengthen some good resolves—to confirm so doubting mind—and to shed around her an atmosph of peace and purity, which shall carry with it a v fying power. It should be ours to contend *agai* rather than foster that spirit of this world, which gaining such fearful ascendancy in many hearts, as "choke the word," and render them "barren and fruitful."

Let us not, by giving place to pride of station of dress, neglect that inward and true adorning, wh is the crown of perfect womanhood; but let us seek

oderate our desires that we may not drive our hus-
ands, sons and brothers to sordid pursuits, as a means
f gratifying our idle longings.

Then may they turn to us as a refuge from the
ares and turmoils of their daily life, and find in the
omestic circle that peace and beauty, which shall
ctract them beyond the haunts of pleasure, or the se-
uctive allurements that lie in the path of vice.—Let
s not cease to bear our protest against every form of
ntemperance, and may we never be so recreant to our
alling as to violate our testimony against this gigantic
nd widely spreading evil, in the smallest degree.

It is ours to prepare the ground for the seed of
mmortal life—to dig about it—to guard it from hurt-
ul influences, and, *then in faith* to leave it to that quick-
ning power, which can alone "give the increase"—
nay we never slumber at our post lest the Enemy
nter and sow the tares, which will frustrate all our
abor; but with unwearied love and patience pursue
ur work, believing that we shall, in the end, "see the
esire of our souls, and be satisfied."

In reviewing the state of Society, we also have to
ament many evidences of weakness, particularly a want
f faithfulness on the part of some, in the attendance
f our religious meetings.—When we recall the suffer-
ngs and the struggles of our worthy predecessors, who
ounded, and often preserved these meetings in the face

of stripes, imprisonment and cruel persecutions, h
can we hold ourselves excused, with all the faciliti
afforded us, if we neglect this imperative duty.

A deep concern has arisen in many minds, on t
subject of light and unprofitable reading—and we ha
been entreated no longer to feed on husks, when,
children of the "household of faith," we can ha
access to the bounties of the Father's table.—Let
not only refrain from works of fiction, but from a st
more hurtful class of publications, which under t
specious guise of scientific, and philosophical inquir
tend to make shipwreck of our faith.

In the truest love, we remain your Friends.

On behalf of the meeting,

MARY JANE FIELD,

Cler

13

1351
0 0
1
201

1871

YI

BY

P